GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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Contents for Week of May 14, 1928. Vol. VII. No. 12.

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NOTE TO TEACHERS: The next issue of the Geographic News Bulletins will be published upon the reopening of schools in October. The Bulletins are not issued during the summer vacation months. It will facilitate the handling and prompt mailing of the Bulletins in the fall if teachers whose subscriptions expire with this issue will apply now for the Bulletins they need for next year. See application form following Bulletin No. 1.

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COMMANDER BYRD LAUNCHING AN AIRPLANE AT ETAH, NORTH GREENLAND
(see Bulletin 3.)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Some Famous Atlantic Crossings

First east-to-west flight over the Atlantic by the German and Irish crew of the Bremen: 36 hours and 35 minutes.

Columbus: sailed from Palos, Spain, August 1, 1492, arrived at San Salvador, October 12; time elapsed 69 days.

Pilgrim Fathers: sailed from Plymouth, England, September 6, 1620, arrived Cape Cod, November 9; time elapsed, 66 days.

"Dreadnaught," Yankee Clipper Ship: sailed from New York, June 15, 1859, arrived Cape Clear, Ireland, on June 27; time elapsed 12 days.

"Savannah": first steamship to cross Atlantic, from Savannah, Georgia, to Liverpool, leaving Savannah May 24, 1819, crossing in 27 days.

"Great Eastern," famous early steamship: sailed from Needles, off Southampton, England, June 17, 1860, arrived New York, June 28; time elapsed, 9 days.

"Mauretania": sailed from New York to Cherbourg, September, 1924; time elapsed, 5 days, 1 hour and 49 minutes.

Zeppelin dirigible ZR-3 (later Los Angeles): sailed from Friedrickshafen, Germany, October 12, 1924, arrived, Lakehurst, N. J., October 15; time elapsed, 81 hours, 17 minutes.

British biplane (Alcock-Brown): took off at St. Johns, N. F., June 14, 1919, arrived, Clifden, Ireland, June 15; time elapsed, 16 hours, 12 minutes.

Lindbergh: took off from New York City, May 20, 1927, 7:52 a. m., arrived at Paris, May 21, 10:42 p. m.; time elapsed, 33½ hours.

Greenly Island, Where the Bremen Flyers Landed

GREENLY Island, Quebec, which the storm-tossed Bremen flyers first mistook for a Newfoundland sealing ship, is not much larger than an ocean liner.

The lighthouse which beckoned to the weary crew has been built at the inner entrance of the Strait of Belle Isle to flash warnings to steamships following the shortest route to Europe. Because the Strait of Belle Isle offers a short cut between Quebec and Europe only after June 25, when the ice has gone, the Greenly Island light has never before extended protection to travelers so early in the year. By using a string and a globe one can demonstrate how steamships using the St. Lawrence can advertise their Great Circle route as the shortest to Europe. One-third the trip is within the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Came Down on the Easternmost Bit of Canada

Some accounts have linked Greenly Island with Labrador, but it is actually within the Province of Quebec. The Labrador boundary comes down to the point off which Greenly Island lies. Point Amour, from which the radio messages came is twelve miles east and therefore in Labrador. Labrador is a territorial possession of Newfoundland which in turn is a direct colony of England. Newfoundland has never joined the Dominion of Canada. Greenly Island is the easternmost bit of land owned by the Dominion. If the flyers had landed just two miles farther east Canada could not claim the honor of being their landing place.

The Strait of Belle Isle, which now appears in aerial pioneer history, has been a scene of exploration ever since the days of Cartwright and other early explorers of the St. Lawrence region.

This bleak north St. Lawrence coast, in affording safety to the German flyers, is returning the kindness which Germans have bestowed upon that region for many years. Moravian missionaries from Germany first braved the rigors of the Labrador coast to serve the Eskimo natives. To their presence the Eskimos of north Labrador probably owe their existence. Once the entire coast was occupied by Eskimos, but the development of the fisheries by white men introduced white

© Photograph by Donald McLeish

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, THE TOWN HOUSE OF THE KING AND QUEEN OF ENGLAND, WHICH THEY LEAVE FOR BALMORAL IN AUGUST

Buckingham Palace is the King's London home and takes its name from the Duke of Buckingham's house, which once occupied its site. When either the King or the Queen is in residence, the guard is changed daily, the occasion providing an interesting spectacle which figures in one of A. A. Milne's poems about Christopher Robin. The band of the Welsh Guards is seen passing the Queen Victoria Memorial (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Roman Emperor's Pleasure Barges to be Recovered by Draining Lake Nemi

BEFORE autumn the lowering waters of Lake Nemi, 15 miles south of Rome, should reveal two fabulous relics of antiquity which have been buried beneath the waves for nineteen centuries. The Italian government has ordered a Milan engineering firm to salvage the sunken barges, examples of Emperor Caligula's wanton extravagances. Divers long ago located the barges 50 feet beneath the surface.

Lake Nemi is a body of water three and one-half miles in diameter, occupying the crater of a dead volcano.

Ordered Own Likeness Mounted on Greek Statues

Caligula, the mad emperor of Rome, ruled only four years, but the excesses he practiced, the number of prominent Romans he ordered to death, and his expensive, demented humor, link his name with that of Nero. For eight months the Romans praised him for relaxing the economy administration of Tiberius, his predecessor. Then, following an illness, his madness began to manifest itself. He ordered temples built for statues of himself. He had masterpieces of Greek sculpture brought to Rome, the heads knocked off, and models of his ugly head carved to replace the Greek heads. He caused a statue of himself to be erected in a public place in Rome, one writer relates, and had it clothed each day with a duplicate of the garment he himself wore.

It has been known for hundreds of years that a treasure barge lies on the mud bottom of Lake Nemi, "dark emerald of the Alban Hills." The first attempt to raise the prize was made in 1436. One Caligula barge in particular has been badly torn to pieces by various official and unofficial relic fishermen. A few excellent bronze beam caps of lion and wolf heads which have been brought up arouse archaeologists' hopes of important finds. One barge measures 150 feet long with a 95-foot beam. The other, lying 200 yards away, is 230 feet long.

men's diseases so the true Eskimos are not found south of Hamilton Inlet to-day. They live only in north Labrador where the stations of the Moravian missionaries, later aided by Dr. Grenfell's establishments, have saved the colony.

The northernmost hillock of Greenly Island is 64 feet high; and the southern one about 20 feet lower. Navigation is made difficult in the vicinity of the island because of rocks and shoals off the southern end.

The island is approached at the northern end when it is visited in the summer months because of the fishery located in the northeastern cove. The island also has attracted naturalists because it is a resort of puffins, which come suddenly in June, and disappear entirely in October.

Swift Current Runs In Strait of Belle Isle

Both shores are visible to the passengers on liners going through the Strait of Belle Isle if the weather happens to be good. The ocean entrance between Labrador and Belle Isle, from which the Strait takes its name, is 13 miles wide. The narrowest point is at the opposite end of the Strait, 70 miles west, where the Newfoundland shore comes within 9 miles of Point Amour. The Strait is an alternating river. A current running at two to three knots per hour flows in and out of the pass with the ebb and flow of the tide.

The Belle Isle radio station renders important service to the International Ice Patrol which is now on duty in the North Atlantic employing the U. S. Coast Guard cutter *Modoc*. This station watches ice conditions and counts the large icebergs coming down from the north on the Labrador Current. The iceberg data helps the *Modoc* protect transatlantic liners from the fate which overtook the *Titanic*.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

School Service Department,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send.....copies of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS for the school year of 1928-29, for classroom use, to

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Geography of the South Pole Region Contrasts with the Arctic

CONDITIONS in striking contrast to those he found in the Arctic will be encountered by Commander Richard E. Byrd when he leads his Antarctic expedition south in the late summer.

Instead of the vast expanse of sea and relatively low land found in the Arctic, there is in the Antarctic a high continent, larger than Australia or the United States. In the valleys of the Far North of the world the summer sun brings moss, grass, and flowers. But in contrast, the bleak plateaus and mountains of the Antarctic harbor practically no living things because much of their area is perpetually blanketed by snow and ice.

Birds frequent the edge of the Ice Barrier where they can exist upon the creatures of the sea, but inland no life has been found because there is no vegetation. The bears, wolves, foxes, rabbits, musk oxen, and caribou of the Far North have not a single representative in the Far South known to man.

Very Little Known About the Antarctic Continent

Commander Byrd's expedition will doubtless be able to augment the information contained upon the now meager maps of the Antarctic continent. Explorers cannot sail along the coasts of this continent as they can along those of Australia or Africa. The Great Ice Barrier and pack ice keep ships at a distance, sometimes of several hundred miles. Only in a few isolated places has this barrier been penetrated and the actual land reached.

This condition is in contrast to that of Greenland where the Ice Cape extends to the coast in only a few places. It is known that practically all of Greenland is a high plateau; but the topography of the Antarctic continent is practically unknown except for small areas traversed by explorers.

The Airplane Can Help to Fill In Blind Spots

The present map of the Antarctic regions, therefore, is mostly blank, with a few patches of known territory along the coast, and one or two narrow paths penetrating inland. The best known region is the land directly south of New Zealand traversed by Shackleton, Scott, and Amundsen. The world is still hazy in regard to the high mountain ranges which exist near this most used highway to the South Pole; and little is known of the land lying relatively near the Pole and between it and Africa, South America, the South Pacific, and the southern Indian Ocean. Observations from the air should make it possible to fill in much of this data.

Among the important problems to be worked out by Commander Byrd are those relating to the meteorology of the southern continent and its effect on world weather, especially that of the southern hemisphere. Observations have been taken on the ground along the Shackleton, Scott, and Amundsen routes, but nothing is known of conditions on the other side of the Pole or in the air above the continent. It is believed that the barometric and temperature changes and the air currents originating over this great land mass strikingly influence the weather to the north, and that the gathering of data over regions now unknown will aid weather forecasting.

© Photograph by Emil P. Albrecht

ITALY'S LAKES HAVE ALWAYS HAD AN IRRESISTIBLE LURE

There are many villas like this one on Lake Como on other lakes of northern Italy to-day. Roman emperors could not go so far from their capital so they sought the beauties of such smaller lakes as Nemi. When the oleanders are in flower around Lake Como, their soft rose and glossy green is reflected with the creamy villa and drifting summer clouds in the radiant blue of the lake.

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Olympic Quality High Jumpers Who Live in Africa

AT THE Olympic Games held this summer in Amsterdam, Holland, athletes in all branches of sport from many nations will compete.

Yet the records made at Amsterdam may not be world records because, in certain sports, peoples who will send no stars are known to be superior.

One of the best of the western world's wrestlers went to a native fete in Patiala, India, recently and was conquered in brief time by an Indian wrestler. Probably no white high jumper can surpass the best athletes of the black Watussi people of Tanganyika, Africa.

Over the Bar at 8 Feet 2 Inches

"A line, which could be raised or lowered at will, was stretched between two slender trees standing on an incline," wrote a spectator at track events among the Watussi people of Tanganyika. "The athletes had to run up to this and jump from a small termite heap a foot in height. Despite these unfavorable conditions, exhibitions were given which would place all European efforts in the shade. The best jumpers—slender, but splendid figures, with an almost Indian profile—attained the incredible height of 8 feet, 2 inches, and young boys made the relatively no less wonderful performance of 5 feet.

"Then a number of young Watussi exhibited their remarkable skill in javelin throwing. Taking a run of ten steps, bending backwards almost to the ground, they hurled their javelins up to prodigious heights, and with such impetus that two of the spear-shafts broke in the air from the vibration. It was the same with the shooting-matches with bow and arrow, in which the trunk of a banana tree was used for the butt. The shooting average at 150 feet was really good.

"Great strength is required to bend the bow correctly, and to draw it to its fullest extent long years of practice are necessary. The elasticity of the bow, which is from 4 feet to 4 feet, 9 inches in height, is extraordinarily great, and with the bow-string drawn to its fullest extent the arrow flies a distance of 200 paces.

"Running races, too, were organized, but owing to the lack of the necessary measuring instruments I am, unfortunately, not in a position to give the time. I have no doubt, however, that in this department, also, the European records were at least equalled.

The Sultan Had Good Form With a Rifle

"The Sultan being desirous of seeing the white men do some shooting, an iron pot was placed on a stake and set up at a distance of about 500 feet. As I, as well as others of my company, was successful in hitting this tolerably easy mark several times in succession, the plaudits from the crowd were great, and innumerable hands were stretched out in congratulation.

"The Sultan fearing that he would be beaten if he tried his skill from the same point, approached within 50 paces of the mark. His efforts were not exactly brilliant, yet every company captain would have been delighted with the faultless way in which he made ready and the precision with which he carried out all the movements. He was like an infantry man at the rifle butts."

Commander Byrd Made First Polar Flights on MacMillan Expedition

The National Geographic Society has given from its funds for geographic research and exploration $25,000 toward Commander Byrd's Antarctic expedition.

Commander Byrd already holds the Hubbard Gold Medal, the Society's highest award, presented to him in behalf of The Society by President Coolidge following his flight to the North Pole.* It was on the MacMillan Arctic Expedition to North Greenland, sponsored by The Society in 1925, that Commander Byrd made his first flights in far northern regions.

*Commander Byrd's own account of his first Arctic flights is contained in the National Geographic Magazine for November, 1925, and his narrative of his transatlantic flight appeared in the issue of September, 1927.

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MISS GRETA FERRIS, WHO DROVE A TEAM OF DOGS TO GREENLY ISLAND, WHERE THE FLYERS LANDED

This photograph of Miss Ferris, who is a graduate nurse in charge of the International Grenfell Hospital at Forteau Bay, was taken on the MacMillan Expedition of 1925, which stopped at Battle Harbor. Miss Ferris drives her own dog team and she is so expert that she can outdistance most men drivers. Her story of the Bremen flyers' exploit was one of the first to reach civilization.

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Balmoral, Where England's King and Queen Take Their Vacation

BALMORAL Castle, summer residence of the British royal family, is one of the chief points of interest to tourists in Scotland. The castle is situated in the heart of the Grampian Highlands, on the River Dee, about fifty miles from the point at which that stream enters the North Sea. The neighborhood is said to have the driest summer climate in the British Isles, and it is probably for this reason, as well as for the beauty of the mountain scenery, that English royalty usually resort there at the end of the London season in the latter part of July.

Balmoral was a favorite retreat of Queen Victoria, the castle itself having been constructed under the direction of her husband, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg, about the middle of the last century. The royal pair is said to have selected this remote highland spot because Osborne House, in which they then spent their leisure, had become too easy of access. There was at first a small manor house on the property, which was utilized as a residence until the present elaborate structure in the Scotch baronial style could be completed. From the top of its central, hundred-foot tower the visitor looks out upon a magnificent panorama of the Grampian Hills and the River Dee.

The Bodyguard Goes Along, Too

While this modern seat of kings lacks the romantic glamor of ancient strongholds whose roots go back into the history of the Middle Ages, it is, nevertheless, impressive in appearance. Its numerous wings and towers of light colored stone cover an enormous area, and the whole is surrounded by a handsome park stretching along the banks of the Dee.

At the near-by village of Ballater are barracks for the King's bodyguard which accompanies him while he is in residence. Ballater is a well known tourist resort, where summer visitors enjoy splendid golf links and excellent mountain climbing. The village is also highland terminus of the Dee Railway, which follows the stream to Aberdeen, on the coast.

The city of Aberdeen, besides being seat of one of Scotland's most famous universities, is the most important seaport on the north shore. It has regular steamer service to London and other British ports, and is connected with England by two lines of railway. It thus forms an accessible gateway to the highland playgrounds which lie behind it, as well as to the rich agricultural province of Aberdeenshire, of which it is the capital. Aberdeen is also home port of a North Sea fishing fleet and is famous for the export of granite. These industries, together with weaving, manufacturing, and fruit canning have made the old university town fourth city of Scotland in wealth and importance.

Hospitality of Highlanders Has Won the Rulers' Hearts

Commerce takes second place during the summer touring season, however. Thousands of visitors pour through Aberdeen to the near-by highland resorts. Quaint stone cottages and wild mountain scenery, with golf, and salmon fishing thrown in, draw foreign as well as English visitors. It is said that one of the main attractions of the region to Queen Victoria and her husband was the free and cordial manner of the highlanders themselves, whose hospitable nature is unchanged to the present day.

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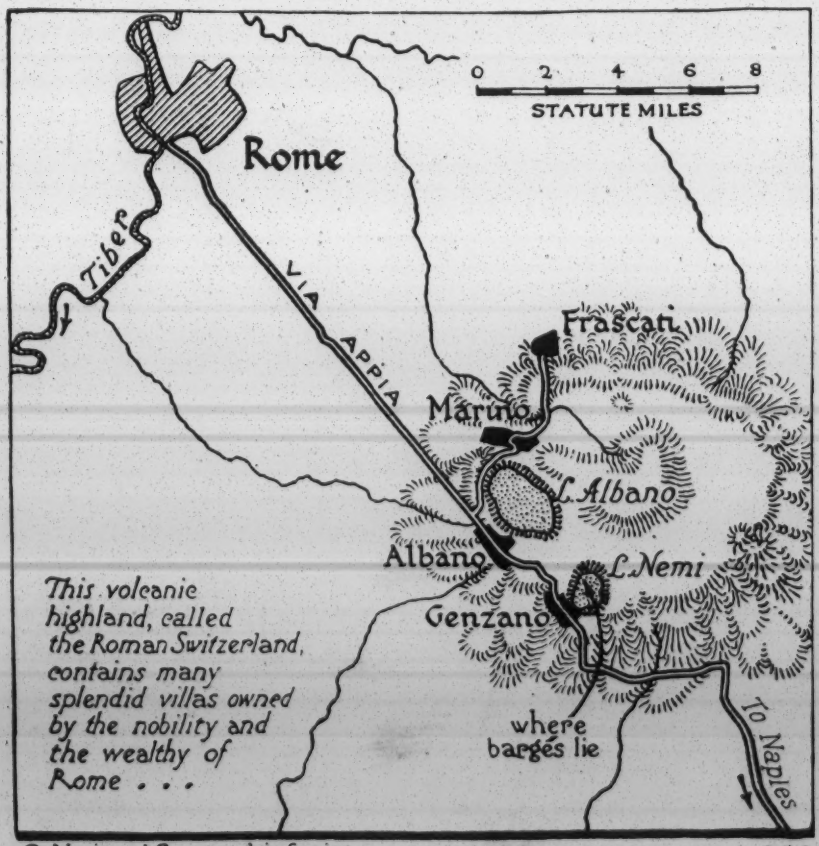
THE PHENOMENAL WATUSSI ATHLETE OF EAST AFRICA

This high jumper ran and leaped from the ant heap shown behind the left post. The best jumpers among the Watussi attain the astounding heights of 8 feet 2 inches, according to a German explorer who tested them. They are equally proficient in other athletic sports.

The peasantry around Balmoral are a cheerful lot, hard working and intensely religious. The white-washed interiors of their cottages, with open hearth and china-decked dresser form an appropriate background for life among rugged hills, severe, yet hospitable. Royal visitors from the castle have often stopped in such simple surroundings when fatigued or overtaken by storm on some highland journey. This freedom of existence was, even in Queen Victoria's day, a feature of life at Balmoral. It is one of the charms which year after year draw Britain's rulers to their castle in the Scottish highlands for an August holiday.

Bulletin No. 5, May 14, 1928.



SKETCH MAP SHOWING LAKE NEMI, SCENE OF UNIQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL VENTURE

Engineers plan to lower the water level of Lake Nemi 80 feet to recover the two royal pleasure barges of Emperor Caligula. Nineteen centuries ago he used to drive out the Appian Way to enjoy himself on the costly houseboats (see Bulletin No. 2).